

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 13, 15, and 24 include allowable subject matter, but are objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim. Additionally, claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 12, 17, 18, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,739,293 to Hurley et al. ("Hurley").

Claims 12-18 and 20-26 are pending in this application. In this response, claims 20 and 26 have been amended, and new claims 27-29 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 13, 15, and 24 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, in view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejection to claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, claim 20 is rejected for depending from a cancelled claim. In response, claim 20 has been amended to depend from claim 12. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out this problem.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

Rejections to claims 12, 17, 18, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b):

Claims 12, 17, 18, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,739,293 to Hurley et al. ("Hurley").

Hurley describes a three phase electrical contactor 10 having terminals 14 and 16 connectable via conductors 20 and 24 and contacts 22 and 26. See col. 5, lines 17-38, and Fig. 2.

Independent claims 12 and 26 have now been amended so as to recite an electrical switching device including a first and a second connection device, wherein the second connection device is "configured for pluggable connection of a respective second electrical conductor between the incoming terminal contact and the outgoing terminal contact." Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in Paragraph [0023] of the Specification, and in Figure 1. It is respectfully submitted that Hurley does not teach a second connector configured for pluggable connection of a second electrical conductor between incoming and outgoing terminal contacts, as recited in claims 12 and 26. In contrast, Hurley merely describes a contactor 10 including terminals 14 and 16 which are interconnected internally by conductors 20 and 24. Contacts 22 and 26 are provided for establishing circuit continuity between terminals 14 and 16. See Hurley, col. 5, lines 30-28, and Fig. 2. Because Hurley fails to teach at least the above-recited features of independent claims 12 and 26, it cannot anticipate these claims or any of their dependent claims.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12, 17, 18, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Hurley is respectfully requested.

New claims:

New claims 27-29 have now been added. New independent claim 27 includes the limitations of allowable claim 13 rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim from which claim 13 depends. New dependent claim 28 includes the limitations of allowable claim 15. New independent claim 29 includes the limitations of allowable claim 24 rewritten in

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independent form to include the limitations of the base claim from which claim 24 depends. It is respectfully submitted that claims 27-29 are in condition for immediate allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Erik R. Swanson

Registration No.: 47,522

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 770

Church Street Station

New York, New York 10008-0770

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorney For Applicants